

### **REMARKS**

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Itoh et al. U.S. Patent No. 7,108,904 was discussed with the Examiner during a telephone conversation on July 12, 2007. Specifically, it was pointed out by the undersigned that Itoh et al. should not be a reference because the priority date of the Applicant, October 23, 2002, predates the priority date of Itoh et al. The Examiner indicated that in order to remove Itoh et al. as a reference, a certified translation of the priority document, or a certification that the application as filed is an accurate translation of the priority document must be filed.

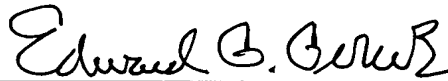
As a result, attached is a statement from attorney Olivier Eideslberg stating that the present American application (10/688,483) is a true and accurate translation of the French priority document FR 02 13217. Since the application as filed is a true and accurate English translation of the French application, Applicant believes that Mr. Eideisberg's statement satisfies 37 CFR § 1.55(a)(4)(ii). With a priority date of October 23, 2002 established, the present application is deemed to precede the priority date of the Itoh et al. patent (US 7,108,904 B2, filed on March 25, 2003). Thus, the Itoh et al. reference cannot be the basis for the §§ 102-103 rejections of the last office action.

Also, during the telephone interview, Examiner informally mentioned that Oborny et al. (US App 2002/0031637) might be of some relevance to the claimed invention. However, Applicant does not believe the reference is relevant because in Oborny the lowest part of the article is the foam seal element 60 which is necessary for the sealing. The article of the present invention is much simpler; no additional sealing element is to be provided, and the claims have been amended to make this distinction clear.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that claims 1-8 and 12-20 are in condition for allowance and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further issues remain after this amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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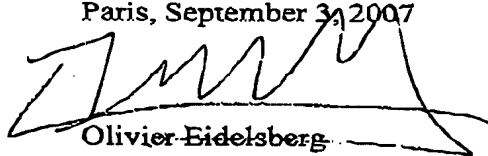
Attorney for Applicant

September 24, 2007



I, Olivier Eidelsberg, French and European patent attorney, have carried out the translation into English of FR 02 13217 filed on October 23 2002. I certify that the application US 10/688483 claiming priority of FR 02 13217 is a true and accurate English translation of the same.

Paris, September 3, 2007



Olivier Eidelsberg